KANSAS CITY WILL BE READY.

Arrangements Begun to Rebuild the Convention Hall Burned Yesterday.

National Committee Notified That the City Will Fulfill Its Contract-Church, Public School and Flats Were Also Destroyed.

Hall, Kansas City's pride, wherein the Dembeen held on July 4, was laid in ruins in less than thirty minutes this afternoon from a fire that started from an unknown source

was evident aimost from the start that the rounding property. A stiff breeze was blowing, and before the fire was subdued, at 2:15 o'clock, the Second Presbyterian Church,] one of the finest edifices in the city, the church parsonage, the Lathrop public school, a two-story, thirteen-room building, all situated across the way on Central street and a half block of three-story flat buildings on the Twelfth street side were ren dered a total loss. Several residences were damaged, and for a time it was feared that several blocks of buildings in the residence

Cistrict would go.

Loss Amounts to \$400,000. The aggregate loss is \$100,000, apportlened as follows: Convention Hall, \$235,000; insurance, \$155,000; church, \$50,000; insured; par-sonage, \$15,000, insured; school \$25,000, insurance, \$30,600; Williamson Block, Twelfth atreet, \$60,000; insurance \$45,000.

Planning to Rebuild.

Plans are on foot to rebuild Convention Hall immediately and make it ready for the Democratic Convention in July. While the fire was still in progress, members of the Commercial Club, through whose efforts the hall was conceived and built, mingled in the crowds of spectators and began soliciting funds for a new structure. This eventng \$25,000 had been subscribed. and Secretary E. M. Clendenning of the club called a mass meeting of citizens for to-morrow night to devise ways and means of raising an additional \$50,000.

The hall association has \$10,000 in the bank and will have the \$155,000 insurance for immediate use, the insurance companies having spontaneously agreed to waive the mand. The Kansas City lumber company that furnished four-fifths of the lumber for the old building have agreed to duplicate their order at once at the rate existence two years ago, and the Minne-apolis firm that furnished the steel girders for the immense roof have been telegraphed to duplicate their order.

If by any possible combination of circumstances the necessary material cannot be secured in time. Kausas City will at once enovate and repair Exposition building, where from 20,000 to 25,000 persons could be accommodated. It is situated on several street car lines and the matter of transportation would be easily solved. The subcommittee in charge of arrange-

ments for the National Democratic Committee will be invited to inspect Exposition building as soon as it is definitely decided that it will be necessary to resort to this building to hold the convention. It is located in the east portion of the city.

Fire's Origin a Mystery. The fire started, as near as can be learned, just above the boller-room in the northeast corner of the building on the alley, where some plumbers had been at work. There was no fire in the furnace, and the suppost tion is that the blaze started from a spirit lamp or by one of the plumbers crossing

A still slarm was first turned in, By the time the first engine arrived, ten minutes later, the whole building was a mass of s. The entire structure, covering a block each way on Thirteenth and Central streets, was turned into a furnace of fire before a second plarm could be sounded, and in less than half an hour the roof, upheld by massive steel girders, that spanned its 200 feet of breadth, fell with erash that sent showers of burning embers in every direction and drove the across the street. The brick Corinmen across the street. The brick Corin-thien columns lining the building along the on Fourteenth and Thirteenth

streets tottered and then fell, and the hall

was a complete wreck-the work of but fifteen minutes' time. Church and School in Roins. A strong wind carried the flames to the Presbyterian Church on the opposite side of Thirteenth street and Central, and rty minutes that structure, occupying half block in length, was in ruins, parsonage adjoining and next the Lathrop School, which was partially destroyed in ado of 1888, and which had been set aside for the use of the newspaper correspondents during the coming convention. were attacked simultaneously, and soon othing but their walls were left standing. Fortunately, the school children had not and all were taken to places of safety. Next the flames caught the Williamso

returned to their rooms after the noon hour north on Twelfth street, and these were The flats occupied a half block and were brick and three stories in height. different residences within a radius of two trocks and fanned by a stiff breeze and aided by a low-water pressure threatened a general conflagration.
The fire, which was finally getten under

control at 2:30, proved one of the quickest and most dangerous experienced in Kansas

The Hall Was Built in 1898.

Convention Hall had been classed by travelers as one of the largest and most perfectly constructed auditoriums in the world. The building was erected in 1898 at a cost of \$235,000, which was raised entirely by public subscription. It was two storic high and built of native stone, cream brick and terra cotta. The first story was of the Renalssance style of architecture and the second story in peristile form, with groups and columns. The building was of bridge construction, without a column, th roof being supported by great steel girders scating arrangement was modeled somewhat upon the plan of the Metropolitan Opera-house, New York, The floor space was divided into arena, arena balcony, balcony and roof garden, boxes skirting the arena and the arena balcony The total seating capacity was nearly 20,00 and, with standing room, the building was capable of holding more than 25,000 per-sons. The arena slone seated 4,000. The ullding had no stairways, the upper seat tings being reached by means of inclined planes. Separate exits were used for the balconies and roof garden, and it is estimated that the nall could have been emp-tied at the rate of 5,000 a minute. Practically nothing remains intact of Convention Hall save the Thirteenth street one-story wall, and the foundation. The

straggling side walls will be torn down. NO CHANGE IN GENERAL PLANS. Washington, April 4. Senator Jones, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, says that the committee will take no action until be has further information cerning what Kansas City proposes to so. If it is true, as reported, the in the forefront of the contest.

Kansas City, Mo., April 4.—Convention | nall is to be rebuilt, there will be no nece aty for making other arrangements. Senator Jones says that if the citizens of Kansas City go at it in the right way there s no reason why they cannot complete the new building by July 4.

MILWAUKEE'S OFFER. Milwaukee, Wis., April 4.-Mayor D. Rose, on hearing of the burning of th Convention Hall at Kansas City, wired the mittee, asking that, if the conflagration resulted in a change of the plans already adopted, that Milwaukee be considered. Milwaukee has a convention ball suitable for a big gathering and preparations for the convention could be carried out with-

MR. WALS retary Walsh of the ommittee, expressed Chicago, April 4.— National Democratic his regret at the conflagration so disastrou to Kansas City.

"in my belief," he said, "it will in no way interfere with the holding of the Dem ocratic Convention. Any per top atformation come in contact with the land that the land by the with the fact that the land by the had higher degree of public other city in the United St ther party lieve the people there will p to indicate accommodations for the Natibe would cratic Convention. "It seems to me that the National"ne mittee will certainly aid them in every

GOV. STONE ACTS PROMPTLY. Committee on Arrangements Is to Meet in Three Days.

Ex-Governor William J. Stone yesterday received assurances not only that Kansas City will be prepared to entertain the Democratic National Convention, but that no effort will be made by Milwaukee to have the convention held in that city. The first comes in a telegram from ex-Congressman F. W. Fleming of Kansas

City. The message says: "Convention Hall will be rebuilt, higher and grander than ever, ready for the Democratic National Convention, July 4. I send this so you may answer all inquiries." The other message was sent by National

Committeeman E. C. Wall of Milwaukee It reads as follows: "Kansas City" mis fortune will not, in my judgment, interfer with her care of the convention. Tru Western enterprise will prevail now. I am for Kansas City." This practically settles any doubt of the

intentions which might have been entertained for sending the convention to Mil wankee, the rival of Kansas City for the poror of entertaining the gathering Governor Stone said last night that be would call a special meeting of the sub Committee on Arrangements, of which he is chairman, to meet in two or three day tional Chairman Jones, who is now in Washington, to attend the meeting. He felt sure that the destruction of the Antorium would not result in a change of date or the convention.

MUST HAVE A NEW HALL.

Otherwise Committeeman Drink water Will Favor St. Louis.

cratle National Committee from Massachu setts, was at the Planters yesterday on his way home after a visit to Kansas City for the purpose of selecting headquarters for Mr. Drinkwater deployed the news of the

destruction of Convention Hall. He had secured one-half of the Baltimore Hotel as beadquarters for the delegates from New England States. He declared that if Kansas City would rebuild her hall t would still favor that city for holding the convention, but if Kansas City gave it he was in favor of St. Louis as the meeting

He was driven over the city while her and inspected the Coliseum, which h would prove an excellent place for holding the convention.

ALL DEPENDS ON MILLS.

Auditorium's Builders Are Search ing for Material.

Minneapolis, Minn., April 4.-Frank J. Liewellyn, vice president and chief engineer of the Gillett-Herzog company of Minneapdis, who built the Kansas City Auditorium,

"We have received three telegrams this afternoon asking us whether we could put up the steel part of the structure so that it would be in readiness by June 15. We made o answer and will make none until to morrow. Until then I do not care to make my statement.

"The task, if we accept it, will be a gigantic one, and one that in the ordinary course of events we would never for an intant consider. Success in the present intance hinges upon so many external cir cumstances and the time for preparation is o short that everything in connection with built the original building we put to \$100 worth of steel, which amounted to see tona. The conditions prevalent at the present time are not the same, and this will play a great part in the undertaking. "It took us four months to erect the

building before, and then we rushed the work at a fast gait. We knew where we were ly regard to the raw materials will probably be called upon to furnish the secessarily wait until we hear from them "I am certain, from my observations in Kansas city, that whether the building car

M'KINLEY IS PLEASED.

Congratulates Senators Who Vote for Puerto Rican Tariff.

Washington, April 4.- The Republican Sonators who visited the White House to-day were congratulated by the President on the action of the Senate yesterday in passing the Puerto Rican bill. President extended particular con-

gratulations to Senators Foraker and Spooner, who from the beginning have been



THE OLD COW DIED ON.

LEADING TOPICS TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Illinois-Increasing cloudiness Thursday; warmer in central and northern portions; rain Friday; cast-

For Missouri-Warmer Thursday with rain Thursday or Thursday night; rain Friday; easterly winds.

1. Attempt to Kill Prince of Wales. Plain Talk to the Mayor.

Kansas City Will Be Ready. 2. Hot Kentucky Debate in the House. British Withdraw to Bloemfontein. Claims to Estate of Jeremiah Fruin.

. Dewey's Candidacy Coldly Viewed.

. Sporting News Bennings Talent Picked Winners, City News in Brief. Cullom Indersed Amid Confusion.

Convention of Doctors Adjourned.

Society Events. Queen Victoria in Ireland. . Congressional Leaders Support World's

Certificates Will Admit to High School.

Carpenters and Painters Still Out. C C Maffirt's Estate . New Corporations. Transfers of Realty.

Weather Report. Report on Arkansas Land To Inspect Cattle.

10. Grain and Produce

11. Financial News. River Telegrams.

3. The Railroads.

14. To Operate Mines for Christianity. Kirkwood Is Satisfied Pirst Funeral Car to Be Used To-Day, Rosser Need Not Pay.

CANNOT GO BY CABLE.

Money for the Boers May Reach Them by Mail.

Washington, Aurll t.-Secretary Hay has notified Secretary Proin of New York, representing the Red Cross Association, that the State Department will transmit to United States Consul Hay at Pretoria any negotiable paper transferring funds to President Kruger in behalf of charity. however, impossible for the department to transmit funds, even on its own account by cable, and as the papers must go forward by mail, it will be a matter of a month or six weeks at least before the funds can be delivered in Pretoria. The State Department has exhausted its

resources in the effort to secure the prompt transmission of money to its agents in South Africa, but without success. The cable companies cannot undertake it, owing to the existence of a state of war, which prevents them from controlling the sources of delivery in the Boer Republics. Applica tion was made to some of the leading bank ing firms of New York in the hope that they would be able, through their wide con nections, to manage the affair, but each one confessed utter inability to transfer mone save through the slow processes of mail and express.

GERMANY MAY ACT.

in Effigy. Berlin, April 4.-The Schlesische Zeitung eports that Herr Malcomess, German Con-

Her Consul in Cape Colony Burned

spl in East London, Cape Colony, has been grossly insulted by a mob, which burned him in offigy. The Berliner Tageblatt, which reproduces

this announcement, says:
"If this news should prove to be true, it will be interesting to watch the German Foreign Office take action

MICHIGAN TOWN BURNING.

Business Section of Ravenna De stroyed and the Fire Spreading.

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 4.-Fire tonight destroyed the business portion of Ravenna, a thriving town half way between this city and Muskegon. The fire is now racing in the residence section of the town. The loss will exceed \$200,000. The town has about 700 inhabitants

MELLINA KUEHN FOUND.

Missing Chicago Girl Was Employed in a Private Family. Chicago, Ill., April 4.—Mellina Kuehn, the 18-year-old daughter of Otto Kuehn, a haker at No. 125 Wells street, whose disappearance three weeks ago caused the police to make startling allegations in regard to her absence from home, was found to-night. She was a domestic in a house on Milwau-

FIRED TWICE AT ALBERT EDWARD.

Youthful Would-Be Assassin Attempted to Kill the Prince of Wales at Brussels, but Bullets Went Wide.

Brussels, April 4 -- An attempt upon the | him since, and only learned of the affair life of the Prince of Wales occurred at the from a journalist. Both parents assert Station du Nord here, at 3:35 p. m. The would-be assassin jumped upon the footboard of the Prince's saloon car as the train was starting, and fired into the car, aim- | to the Paris Exposition. She declares that

ing at the Prince of Wales. The man was immediately arrested. He was identified as a tinsmith, named Sipido, a resident of Brussels, la years of age. intense excitement prevailed for the mo-

ment, as it was feared the Prince had been hit, the shots having been fired almost went wide, striking the side of the carpoint blank. The aniway carriage door was | riage. At first he gave his name as Poissehastily thrown open and great relief was duex, but soon admitted that his real name felt when the Prince appeared at the win-

Both the Prince and Princess, who were journeying together, had very narrow escapes. The policeman on duty took Sinida in charge. The latter appeared proud of his exploit, and seemed quite calm. Sipido told the authorities that he fived on the Rue de la Forge, at St. Gilles, two miles south

He fired two shots at the Prince. When examined by the station officials, Sipido de-clared that he intended to kill the Prince of Wales; that he did not regret his actio and was ready to do it again if given a chance "because he caused thousands of men to be slaughtered in South Africa." Stationmaster's Quick Work.

Upon hearing the shots the stationmas ter rushed to the scene and knocked down the would-be assassin's arm, as he prepared to fire a third shot, and a number of person threw themselves on the Prince's assailant In the confusion a second man, who was quite innocent, was seized, roughly handled After the Prince of Wales had ascertained that the man who fired the shots had been

arrested, he declared himself and the Prin cees uninjured and the train started. The Prince appeared quite unaffected by the inchient. He asked whether the revolver was loaded, and, on being informed in the affirmative, smiled and begged that the culprit might not be treated too severely. The Prince and Princess were on their

way to Copenhagen for the purpose of attending the celebration of King Christian's birthday, April 8. Persons who attended the Maison du Peuple yesterday say that they heard Si pido declare that if the Prince of Wale came to Brussels he ought to have a bullet in his head, and they also heard him effer

o bet five frames that he would fire at the Prince. According to La Patriote, some news of the views expressed at the meeting re-

ferred to was conveyed to the station mas-ter, who had taken what he thought were extra precautions.

Sipido appeared at the station in his peat clothing, having explained to his father

that he was going to seek employment. Act Universally Condemned. The attack is condemned even at the

abor headquarters here. At the Matson du Pennle where the extreme Anarchists meet leading member of the Young Socialist Guard was loud in his denunciation this evening of Sipido's action. Le Patriot, in a special edition, denounce

attempt as "cowardly and senseless" and says: 'It will create general indignation, and the worst enemy of Belgium could not have

The Journal de Bruxellen says: "This outrage will provoke the indigna-tion of all honest people in every civilized country, and especially Belgium. We stigmatize it is the crime of a youth of disor-dered brain. We deeply regret that it was committed in Belgium and we congratulate

cape from the bullet of a regicide." La Chronique says:
"Belglum should not be held responsible for the act of a madman, whose conduct An eyewitness says that the train was al-

the Prince of Wales upon his fortunate es

ready in motion, and when the engineer heard the pistol he shut off steam, applied the brakes and stopped the train. A train restarted after Sipido's arrest, the public loudly cheered the Prince, who acknowledged the demonstration from the car An examination of Slpido's revolver

showed that four chambers had been discharged, but that two of the cartridges had missed fire. The weapon is of the cheapest six-chamber description, such as is cheapest six-channel usually sold here for 3½ francs.

Sipido has a round, boyish face, black eyes and dark hair. At the examination before the magistrate it was ascertained that he had purchased a penny ticket in order to reach the departure platform, where he walked up and down quite a while at

capito has been connected for nearly year with a band of young Socialists. It p. m., on the pretext of going to the Maison du Peuple, where he had been trying to get an appointment. They have not seen seems that he left his parents about 1:20 get an appointment. They have not seen United States in May.

the same time the Prince was promenading,

that he never had a revolver before. His mother says that the lad lived a very regular life and had been saving money to go if he is guilty he must have been instigated by others, and was probably given too much to drink. He was 15 years old last

It seems that Sipido was so nervous that his hand trembled violently, and the builet was Baptiz Sipido, although he declined at the outset to say why he committed the

QUEEN NOT INFORMED.

Dublin, April 5.-The news of the attempt to assassinate the Prince of Wales came too late to be generally known, and it caused but little comment, owing to the overwhelming interest taken in the Queen's

The correspondent of the Associated Press communicated the news to the castle, and It was then sent to the Vice Regal Lodge. but it is understood that the Queen was not informed of the occurrence, the dispatches to her Majesty on the subject be ng held over until this morning (Thurs-

EXCITEMENT IN LONDON.

London, April 4. The dispatch announc-ing the attempt on the life of the Prince of Wales was posted at the Mansion Hot this evening and attracted immense crowds who expressed their feelings in alternately anathematizing the assailant and cheering

The news of the attempt spread with marvelous rapidity in all parts of London and created the most intense excitement and bitter indignation among all classes. Doctor Leyds, diplomatic agent of the Transyaal, makes his headquarters was generally taken to indicate that the woulde assassin was a Boer sympathizer, and this so inflamed passions that the most bit-ter invectives were harled against the Boers and everything connected with them egraphed to the Prince of Wales his conratulations on his escape, while the United States Charge d'Affaires, Henry White, who was calling on the Premier at the time,

promptly repaired to Marlborough House and left his card there. All the efficers were greatly disturbed by he occurrence, and the general view was hat it must be connected in some way with he Transvaal, especially as the Prince of Wales has always heretofore been such ; favorite on the Continent, and never before has been molested in the slightest degree.

One high official remarked: "That settles the question of the Prince of Wales's visit to the Paris Exposition." Some fears were expressed as to the ef-fect the occurrence may have in Dublin. It was pointed out that such attempts are contagious. On the other hand, those who re best acquainted with freland contended that the only effect would be to increase award incident should mar the success of he Queen's visit. The news was immediately telegraphed to

WALES AT COLOGNE.

Cologne, April 5, 1 a. m.-The Prince of Wales arrived here at midnight. Owing to the lateness of the hour there was no special eption. It was learned from a member of his entourage that he remained perfectly olf-possessed when the attack was made and that the Princess, although considerably alarmed, soon recovered from the On his arrival, the Prince was handed a

dozen telegrams of congratulation from various princely personages throughout Eu-

MRS. ADA LAWRENCE DEAD.

Was Formerly Leading Lady With Edwin Booth.

Quincy, Ill., April 4,-Mrs. Ada Lawrence is dead at her residence here. She was leading lady with Edwin Booth, and has iso acted with Junius Booth, John McCut lough, Joseph Jefferson and other tragedians and comedy stars of the first magnitude.

TOWER COMING HOME

American Ambassador Leaves St. Petersburg in May.

PLAIN TALK TO THE MAYOR.

February Grand Jurors in Person Reaffirm Charges.

ASK INVESTIGATION.

Offer Evidence in Support of Accusations Against Officials,

MAYOR DOESN'T ACT.

Declares That He Must Have Statements in Writing.

They talked plainly to the Mayor, backing up their statements with all the data that could be furnished without a violation of their oath of secrety.

Less than a week ago the Mayor, at the February Grand Jury cailed on Mayor in February Grand Jury cailed on Mayor in February Grand Jury cailed on Mayor in February Grand Jury called on Mayor in February Grand Jury called in the Supply Commercial Commercial in February Grand To the City Council, and Police Judge George B. Sidener. They talked plainly to the Mayor, backing up their statements with all the data that could be furnished without a violation of their oath of secrety.

Less than a week ago the Mayor, at the Nine of the twelve men who constituted

Less than a week ago the Mayor, at the astiration of his political advisers, sent copy of the following letter to the twelve citizens who had served on the February

St. Louis, March 29, 1909. hade th your report to the Circuit Court, I am desirous of making a therough, complete and un-flitching investigation of any misconduct on the part of Frederick C. Meter, the Supply Commis-shener, and George H. Sidener, the Justice of the First District Folice Court. To enable me to do this it is necessary for some one to prefer WRIT-TEN CHARGES against them. Otherwise I can-

t proceed. Personally, I am not aware of any official or ther dereliction on the part of either. If I were would unbesitatingly prefer such charges myeff, even though it might look indelicate to be both accuser and the judge. I suppose you are in possession of facts; otherwise you would not

in possession of facts; otherwise you would not late concurred in the report.

I therefore request you to submit to me a statement of whatever evil doing on the part of said Meier or Sidener you may believe warrants investigation, so that I may be able to proceed without delay. I do not ask you to reveal the secrets of the fury room or to disclose what any witness has testified to, but merely to state your conclusions in some such form as to warrant an investigation by me. As a good and fearloss citten you will surely not disappoint me. Respectively.

HENRY ZIEGENHEIN, Mayor.

After a private session on Monday nine

After a private session on Monday nine of the twelve met yesterday in the corridors of the new Chy Hall, outside the Auditor's office, at 9:30 o'clock. They were Edgar C. Lackland, who was foreman of the jury; Jacob Furth. W. G. Chappell, C. E. Godlove, R. B. Bullock, C. C. Clark, H. F. Hubbard, J. E. Duross and C. E. Udell.
The Mayor was in conference with Christ. The Mayor was in conference with Chair-nen Theodore Kalbfell of the Republican Thy Central Committee, Recorder William Jahn, City Register Henry Besch and several other members of his political cabinet when the grand jurors reached his office.
He had apparently been notified that they
were coming, for he hastened into the halfway and greeted them with many bows and
exclamations of greeting.
When the gentlemen had taken seats in

the Mayor's office the conference was opened by Mr. Lackland. Mayor Appeared Uneasy.

Mayor Appeared Uneasy.

The Mayor appeared uneasy and as the meeting proceeded worked his thumbs in a circular movement as the others talked. He said very little to the point and usually referred each question to the City Counselor, frequently beginning his remarks with "Now, you see, my Christian friends." Following is the conversation as it occurred: Mr. Luckland: "Mr. Mayor, as each of the members of the late Grand Jury has received the same letter from you, we have seen fit to wait upon you in a body, and have delegated Mr. Jacob Furth to answer for us in person."

or us in person."
"Mr. Furth: "The formal manner in which you addressed us. Mr. Mayor, having sent to each of us a letter by registered mail, suggested to us that we had better talk the matter over, and, instead of each one writ-ing a letter to you, that we come in a body and explain to you what evidently was lacking in our report, so far as your understanding of our position is concerned. We are not responsible, of course, for the law creating the Grand Jury, but that body was created for a certain purpose, and when we were sworn in and the Court charged us with the investigation of certain matters we went to work in carnest to do what was asked of

The Mayor: "While you are going into macher?"
Mr. Clark: "None whatever, Mr. Mayor,
This is a public meeting. Any one you may
desire to have present will be welcome. We
would like to have his opinion in the mat-

would like to have its opinion in the fer."

Mr. Furth: "There were three distinct matters that the Court charged us to investigate outside of the routine business of the Grand Jury. One of them was the conduct of the city officers and officials and those in the Municipal Legislature regarding the lighting business of the city. Then the Folice Department. The third matter which received the attention of the Grand Jury was a charge that had been publicly circulated that grand juries were interfered with; that certain influences were attempted with; that certain influences were attempted to be used with those drawn to serve on the Grand Jury. Now, when our report was published, of course we assumed that the interviews as reported in the daily press with your Honor correctly stated what you had told to the reporters, and there we found our report characterized as insinuations and innuendoes, when, as a matter of fact, we presented nothing but absolute evidence of facts brought to our notice. I mention this simply because, in the one charge of attempting to influence grand juries, there was before us evidence, which, of course, I am not at liberty to disclose, but which would have involved some who have passed to the great beyond and could not defend themselves. Rather than mention anything of that sort and reduce our report to the level of insinuation and innuenio, we incurred the displeasure of the uendo, we incurred the displeasure of the ourt and passed over that part of the in-Court and passed over that part of the instructions in silence. But when it came to investigating the city business proper and we had presented to us facts figures and books, then we thought we had gone beyond instruction and innuendo and had established proof of certain matters that had transpired. Then came the question of law, and, of course, we had to abide by the opinion of the law officer of the Grand Jury, the Assistant Circuit Attorney, who told us that certain evidence that we deemed very grave and important was not indictable evidence under the law.

City Pays Exorbitant Prices.

"Now, to illustrate: In the body of the report of the Grand Jury, which reflects

"Now, to illustrate: In the body of the report of the Grand Jury, which reflects report of the Grand Jury, which reflects very seriously on the conduct of affairs in the Supply Commissioner's office, you will not find one word or breath of suspicion against the Supply Commissioner in so far as connecting his name with any fraud or bribery. Now, inasmuch as that was not charged, the law officer told us that these other deficiencies in his conduct did not constitute specific evidence, and, consequently, we could not bring an indictment; that it amounted simply to violation of the city ordinances, and, consequently, was not an indictable offense, all that we could do would be to bring a recommendation before the executive officer of the city who is charged with defending its interests to remove the Supply Commissioner from office if he were

POINTED STATEMENTS.

nly Commissioner with buying goods

Your Honor, if an investigation is that was made in our report."

figures and books, then we thought we had gone beyond insinuations and innuendors, and had established proof of certain matters that had trans "In regard to the question of law

course we had to abide by the opinion of the Assistant Circuit Attorney, who told us that certain evidence, which we deemed very grave and important, was not indictable evidence under the law."

"We have also demonstrated and are ready to prove that the statewere bared on facts.

"We have shown you that per pair, and another buys them at an advance of \$2.20 per pair."

"You will find that requisition vards of stuff which would cost requisition was divided into three or-

the city has paid an advance of from
50 to 500 per cent on every article
recorded."
"If you will investigate this matter
further, you will find that there is
a systematic effort being made to rob

. the city.' The best evidence as to how the city has been robbed is in the fact that coal bills have been presented

the entire capacity of the

where they were to be stored, meas-ured by competent engineers. could be saved by the proper purthree years, be sufficient to build us

 serve the city's needs for some years
 to come.
 "In connection with the charges to come.
"In connection with the made against the City Supply Depart-ment, you will find that there is a systematic effort being made to rob the city. It is painful to us, Mr.
 Mayor, but in the discharge of our duties we can look neither to the right nor to the left, and we firmly believe that the community will hold you strictly accountable for what you do in the cases presented, bo the charges presented against Judge the charges presented against Judge
 Sidener and Supply Commissioner
 Meler."

found guilty on investigation, and that then

suit could be brought on his bond for the money of which the city had been defrauded by reason of his having paid exorbitant prices for goods.

"In our report we charged him with buying goods from favored firms in a favored locality. By that we meant that simost all the goods hought by the Sunday Commisthe goods bought by the Supply Commis-sioner were bought from houses out on Chouteau avenue, when such had never been the practice before, because the lar-gest stores do business in the center of the city and not in the southern section. We city and not in the southern section. We have also demonstrated and are ready to prove that the statements we made in our report were based on facts. It will not he a hard matter for your Honor, if an investigation is ordered, to prove every allegation that was made in our report. We have read a great deal in the papers about the necessity of economy and your Honor recommended it in your message. We ask that the Supply Commissioner and the city departments use that economy that we find is the rule in large corporations. The city is a large corporation, using a large—in fact an immense—quantity of goods and it is an easy matter for hundreds of thousands of dollars to be wasted in the manner in which goods are bought by the city. After the Grand Jury had adjourned we met city officials at the heads of departments, who each and every one admitted to us that officials at the heads of departments, who each and every one admitted to us that they knew of the city paying higher prices than were necessary for everything that was bought. Since the adjournment of the Grand Jury it has come to my notice that the city has paid from 100 to 158 per cent for goods more than they could have been bought for from well-known business houses. I have been told of \$10 or \$12 being paid for 100 sheets of carbon paper, which sells at \$3 per hundred in every retail house in the city. Further than this, it has been demonstrated that all the supplies for city institutions are accepted on the word of the contractor as to weight and measure-

the contractor as to weight and measure-Evidence for the Mayor.

"In your letter, Mr. Mayor, you underlines the request that some one should bring written charges against the Supply Commissioner and the Police Judge. Now, we do not find anything in the law or custom that would warrant us in bringing written charges against the Supply Commissioner, if we have told you as an executive of the city, what our view was; if, for instance, we have informed you that the city pays \$129 for 100 fire-alarm keys which cost \$40; when we show you that one institution rejects blankets at \$3.50 per pair and another buys them at an advance \$2.30 a pair, should this not be sufficient to order an investigation of the conduct of the Supply Commiscioner? But we go further in our report, Mr. Mayor. We claim that the city ordinances were violated deliberately. You will find that requisitions came from the Poorhouse for 2,000 yards of stuff which would cost more than \$100, but that the same requisition was divided into three orders of about \$50 yards each. These goods were abought without advertising; no questions were asked as to the value of the goods and the city lost just that much money.
"I will go further, Mr. Mayor, and I do were asked as to the value of the goods and the city lost just that much money.

"I will go further, Mr. Mayor, and I do not believe it is violating our oath of secrecy, because this is a public meeting, and say that certain officials connected with the Supply Department have approached merchants and used language which these merchants thoroughly understood to mean that the city would pay large prices for goods, provided something went for these officials. They were smart enough not to make the direct offer. They were smart enough not provided something went for these officials. They were smart enough not to make the direct offer. They were smart enough not to put themselves in a position to be indicted, but the instinuation and innuendo were there. It was thoroughly understood, But the merchants gave them the cold shoulder and they turned elsewhere and paid everything turies.

exorbitant prices.

"You will find in the Poorbouse and City
Hospital that goods were bought of far
more expensive character than had ever
been used before, and when the question
was asked: "Why do paupers wear jackets
costing \$20 a dozen, when they formerly
wore jackets costing \$8 a dozen?" the answer was, 'Recause I was told the city buys
the best of everything.

"We have innumerable instances of that
kind in the testimony. We referred to a
book kept by a hardware merchant, where-

kind in the testimony. We referred to a book kept by a hardware merchant, where-in the city business and the business of a large brewery alone were entered. The book was kept so as to show the cost price of was kept so as to show the cost price of goods and the price the city paid for them and the profit made on that. Also the profit of the cierk who influenced the business was placed down, and you will find that the city paid from 40 to 500 per cent advance on every article recorded.

Loose Methods. "The best evidence as to how the city,